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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOREIGN POLICY BRIEFING CONFERENCE
FOR THE DAILY AND PERIODICAL PRESS

Monday, April 24, 1961
9:58 a.m. - 5:28 p.m.

Auditorium
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

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[The meeting was convened at 9:58 a.m.,
with Mr. Roger Tubby, Assistant Secretary
of State for Public Affairs, presiding.]

The Secretary of State.

[Applause.]

SECRETARY RUSK: Thank you, gentlemen.

I am very happy to have a moment to welcome
you to the Department of State for these background
briefings on some of our problems in foreign policy.

This should be an interesting two days because
we have lots of problems. [Laughter]

I am not going to take time at the moment to
go into some of them. I will be back to meet you at
another part of your program. I must go away in a
moment to meet with the President and President Sukarno,
who are conferring in just a few minutes. But I do
want to thank you very much for accepting our invita-
tion to come, and taking your time and someone's expense--
whether your own or someone else's--to give us a chance
to have this exchange of views.

Let me tell you that our attitude here in the
Department is to be entirely candid. We started out

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with the notion that these meetings would be on the record. But we shifted them to BACKGROUND in order that we could exchange candor for your own discretion. We felt that it would not be profitable for you to come to Washington for two days just to hear us say what we could normally say in public anyhow; and, if we could have a chance to expose to you all of the complexity and all of the responsibility, and all of the involvement which the United States has in the world these days, this would give some of the background which you gentlemen might need in interpreting the passing course of events.

I don't want to be too light-hearted in a moment like this, but let me express the hope that you will take away from these meetings some feel for the utter complexity and the utter involvement of the United States in situations all over the world.

I suppose that there is no nation who is more completely involved in more situations than are we, because of the position in which we found ourselves as we came out of World War II, not only as a great power but as a great power who was primarily responsible for carrying the burden of the fight for freedom throughout the world, challenged by a dynamic and powerful force